

CIA AGAINST THE FESTIVAL

Algiers, Jeunesse, 23 Apr 65

Decidedly, the Ninth World Youth and Student Festival is the order of the day in Algiers, Havana, Moscow, Conakry,..... and Washington! Yes, the House of Representatives of the American Congress discussed this matter for close to an hour on Wednesday, 31 March 1965.

Representative Jed Johnson of Oklahoma, the youngest member of the House -- 25 years old -- in his very first speech confided the deepest thoughts of a certain youth and a certain CIA to the other members.

(CIA: Central Intelligence Agency, the main agency for intelligence, subversion and espionage of the USA. It was the CIA which organized and financed the invasion of the Playa Giron in Cuba, which organized and financed the overthrow of the Arbenz government of Guatemala, which is presently organizing and financing the mercenaries in the Congo, etc.)

The former president of the American Youth Council, JJJ, describes, with all the bitterness of one who has not attended, the atmosphere and organization of festivals.

For the American thinkers, "the festival masks a highly partisan event having the appearance of a cultural and athletic demonstration." It has not escaped the notice of anyone that the Festival does have a political character because it is a demonstration of Friendship and Solidarity of world youth in their fight for Peace and against imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism. We agree, it is partisan -- with all due deference to the - Yankees - how could it be any different in the era of "escalation," in the era of mercenaries, underdevelopment, in the era of

apartheid and racism. Would they prefer us imperialists, colonialists, and neocolonialists?

JJJ and his friends have a counterproposal: that the Festival be replaced by the sending of some 9,000 American peace volunteers throughout the world, those same ones whom Indonesia and Ghana kicked out, the distinguished representatives of the American way of life [Note: this phrase "American way of life" was in English], escalations, mercenaries, apartheid, racism...

He then informs us: "No representative American student or youth organization has ever participated in a Festival." Obviously. However, at every festival we have seen progressive American youth delegations, aware and rational youth, youth which says no to "escalations," to the mercenaries, apartheid and racism. What does JJJ and his friends think of Vietnam, Cuba, the Congo, Malcolm X?

Then, Jed Johnson Junior, the distinguished representative from Oklahoma, reveals to us the plans and projects of his friends. The "Independent Research Service (read CIA), headed by Eugene Theroux, will try, as during the Vienna, Helsinki, etc. festivals to:

- (1) discourage the participation in the festival of representative American student and youth organizations, whose presence would give the Festival a semblance of legality;

- (2) initiate objective and exact information and news so that the American youth and the youth of other nations might understand the history

and the true purpose of the Festival;

(3) furnish the youth who intend to participate as individuals -- and not as youth organizations -- with documents so that they might be informed on the subjects which might be discussed in Algiers.

In clear language, all of this means:

- persuade those who want to attend the Festival not to go;
- try to bribe those who want to attend at any cost;
- make anti-festival propaganda and subversion, before, during and after;
- plant false delegates, troublemakers, and agents among the delegations.

JJJ and his friends declare that it is "particularly regrettable that the Festival is being held in Algeria." This is another way of saying that he finds it regrettable that the Festival is simply being held. Because they fully realize -- they are not scatterbrained -- that the festivals are striking demonstrations of the solidarity, vigor, unity of world youth, and that they are incapable of organizing such meetings themselves. Let's see what a "Festival" organized by JJJ and Co. would be like and where it would be held. In Saigon perhaps. And with whom: South Korean, Taiwan, Franco, Salazar, anti-Castro youth?

Thanks, we are happy with our Festival and very proud that it is being held in Algiers. For us, this will be one more demonstration, the most striking, the most marvelous, of the determination of the world youth to fight imperialism, old and new colonialism, and to unmask the saboteurs.

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